

**STRUCTURE AND METHOD FOR FABRICATING SEMICONDUCTOR
STRUCTURES AND DEVICES WITH OPTICAL PROCESSING LAYERS
UTILIZING THE FORMATION OF A COMPLIANT SUBSTRATE FOR
MATERIALS USED TO FORM THE SAME**

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to semiconductor structures and devices and to a method for their fabrication, and more specifically to semiconductor structures and devices with optical processing layers and to the fabrication and use of semiconductor
10 structures, devices, and integrated circuits that include a monocrystalline material layer comprised of semiconductor material, compound semiconductor material, and/or other types of material such as metals and non-metals.

Background of the Invention

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Semiconductor devices often include multiple layers of conductive, insulating, and semiconductive layers. Often, the desirable properties of such layers improve with the crystallinity of the layer. For example, the electron mobility and band gap of semiconductive layers improves as the crystallinity of the layer increases. Similarly, the
20 free electron concentration of conductive layers and the electron charge displacement and electron energy recoverability of insulative or dielectric films improves as the crystallinity of these layers increases.

For many years, attempts have been made to grow various monolithic thin films on a foreign substrate such as silicon (Si). To achieve optimal characteristics of the
25 various monolithic layers, however, a monocrystalline film of high crystalline quality is desired. Attempts have been made, for example, to grow various monocrystalline

layers on a substrate such as germanium, silicon, and various insulators. These attempts have generally been unsuccessful because lattice mismatches between the host crystal and the grown crystal have caused the resulting layer of monocrystalline material to be of low crystalline quality.

5 If a large area thin film of high quality monocrystalline material was available at low cost, a variety of semiconductor devices could advantageously be fabricated in or using that film at a low cost compared to the cost of fabricating such devices beginning with a bulk wafer of semiconductor material or in an epitaxial film of such material on a bulk wafer of semiconductor material. In addition, if a thin film of high quality
10 monocrystalline material could be realized beginning with a bulk wafer such as a silicon wafer, an integrated device structure could be achieved that took advantage of the best properties of both the silicon and the high quality monocrystalline material.

 Accordingly, a need exists for a semiconductor structure that provides a high quality monocrystalline film or layer over another monocrystalline material and for a
15 process for making such a structure. In other words, there is a need for providing the formation of a monocrystalline substrate that is compliant with a high quality monocrystalline material layer so that true two-dimensional growth can be achieved for the formation of quality semiconductor structures, devices and integrated circuits having grown monocrystalline film having the same crystal orientation as an underlying
20 substrate. This monocrystalline material layer may be comprised of a semiconductor material, a compound semiconductor material, and other types of material such as metals and non-metals.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the accompanying figures, in which like references indicate similar elements, and in which:

5 FIGS. 1, 2, and 3 illustrate schematically, in cross section, device structures in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates graphically the relationship between maximum attainable film thickness and lattice mismatch between a host crystal and a grown crystalline overlayer;

10 FIG. 5 illustrates a high resolution Transmission Electron Micrograph of a structure including a monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer;

FIG. 6 illustrates an x-ray diffraction spectrum of a structure including a monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer;

FIG. 7 illustrates a high resolution Transmission Electron Micrograph of a structure including an amorphous oxide layer;

15 FIG. 8 illustrates an x-ray diffraction spectrum of a structure including an amorphous oxide layer;

FIGS. 9-12 illustrate schematically, in cross-section, the formation of a device structure in accordance with another embodiment of the invention;

20 FIGS. 13-16 illustrate a probable molecular bonding structure of the device structures illustrated in FIGS. 9-12;

FIGS. 17-20 illustrate schematically, in cross-section, the formation of a device structure in accordance with still another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 21-23 illustrate schematically, in cross-section, the formation of yet another embodiment of a device structure in accordance with the invention;

25 FIGS. 24, 25 illustrate schematically, in cross section, device structures that can be used in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

FIGS. 26-30 include illustrations of cross-sectional views of a portion of an integrated circuit that includes a compound semiconductor portion, a bipolar portion, and an MOS portion in accordance with what is shown herein;

FIGS. 31-37 include illustrations of cross-sectional views of a portion of another integrated circuit that includes a semiconductor laser and a MOS transistor in accordance with what is shown herein; and

FIGS. 38-42 include illustrations of cross-sectional views of a portion of another integrated circuit that includes a semiconductor laser and an optical processing layer in accordance with what is shown herein.

Skilled artisans will appreciate that elements in the figures are illustrated for simplicity and clarity and have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements in the figures may be exaggerated relative to other elements to help to improve understanding of embodiments of the present invention.

Detailed Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 illustrates schematically, in cross section, a portion of a semiconductor structure 20 in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. Semiconductor structure 20 includes a monocrystalline substrate 22, accommodating buffer layer 24 comprising a monocrystalline material, and a monocrystalline material layer 26. In this context, the term "monocrystalline" shall have the meaning commonly used within the semiconductor industry. The term shall refer to materials that are a single crystal or that are substantially a single crystal and shall include those materials having a relatively small number of defects such as dislocations and the like as are commonly found in substrates of silicon or germanium or mixtures of silicon and germanium and epitaxial layers of such materials commonly found in the semiconductor industry.

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, structure 20 also includes an amorphous intermediate layer 28 positioned between substrate 22 and

accommodating buffer layer 24. Structure 20 may also include a template layer 30 between the accommodating buffer layer and monocrystalline material layer 26. As will be explained more fully below, the template layer helps to initiate the growth of the monocrystalline material layer on the accommodating buffer layer. The amorphous intermediate layer helps to relieve the strain in the accommodating buffer layer and by doing so, aids in the growth of a high crystalline quality accommodating buffer layer.

Substrate 22, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, is a monocrystalline semiconductor or compound semiconductor wafer, preferably of large diameter. The wafer can be of, for example, a material from Group IV of the periodic table. Examples of Group IV semiconductor materials include silicon, germanium, mixed silicon and germanium, mixed silicon and carbon, mixed silicon, germanium and carbon, and the like. Preferably substrate 22 is a wafer containing silicon or germanium, and most preferably is a high quality monocrystalline silicon wafer as used in the semiconductor industry. Accommodating buffer layer 24 is preferably a monocrystalline oxide or nitride material epitaxially grown on the underlying substrate. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, amorphous intermediate layer 28 is grown on substrate 22 at the interface between substrate 22 and the growing accommodating buffer layer by the oxidation of substrate 22 during the growth of layer 24. The amorphous intermediate layer serves to relieve strain that might otherwise occur in the monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer as a result of differences in the lattice constants of the substrate and the buffer layer. As used herein, lattice constant refers to the distance between atoms of a cell measured in the plane of the surface. If such strain is not relieved by the amorphous intermediate layer, the strain may cause defects in the crystalline structure of the accommodating buffer layer. Defects in the crystalline structure of the accommodating buffer layer, in turn, would make it difficult to achieve a high quality crystalline structure in monocrystalline material layer 26 which may comprise a semiconductor material, a compound semiconductor material, or another type of material such as a metal or a non-metal.

Accommodating buffer layer 24 is preferably a monocrystalline oxide or nitride material selected for its crystalline compatibility with the underlying substrate and with the overlying material layer. For example, the material could be an oxide or nitride having a lattice structure closely matched to the substrate and to the subsequently applied monocrystalline material layer. Materials that are suitable for the accommodating buffer layer include metal oxides such as the alkaline earth metal titanates, alkaline earth metal zirconates, alkaline earth metal hafnates, alkaline earth metal tantalates, alkaline earth metal ruthenates, alkaline earth metal niobates, alkaline earth metal vanadates, alkaline earth metal tin-based perovskites, lanthanum aluminate, lanthanum scandium oxide, and gadolinium oxide. Additionally, various nitrides such as gallium nitride, aluminum nitride, and boron nitride may also be used for the accommodating buffer layer. Most of these materials are insulators, although strontium ruthenate, for example, is a conductor. Generally, these materials are metal oxides or metal nitrides, and more particularly, these metal oxide or nitrides typically include at least two different metallic elements. In some specific applications, the metal oxides or nitrides may include three or more different metallic elements.

Amorphous interface layer 28 is preferably an oxide formed by the oxidation of the surface of substrate 22, and more preferably is composed of a silicon oxide. The thickness of layer 28 is sufficient to relieve strain attributed to mismatches between the lattice constants of substrate 22 and accommodating buffer layer 24. Typically, layer 28 has a thickness in the range of approximately 0.5-5 nm.

The material for monocrystalline material layer 26 can be selected, as desired, for a particular structure or application. For example, the monocrystalline material of layer 26 may comprise a compound semiconductor which can be selected, as needed for a particular semiconductor structure, from any of the Group IIIA and VA elements (III-V semiconductor compounds), mixed III-V compounds, Group II(A or B) and VIA elements (II-VI semiconductor compounds), and mixed II-VI compounds. Examples include gallium arsenide (GaAs), gallium indium arsenide (GaInAs), gallium aluminum

arsenide (GaAlAs), indium phosphide (InP), cadmium sulfide (CdS), cadmium mercury telluride (CdHgTe), zinc selenide (ZnSe), zinc sulfur selenide (ZnSSe), and the like. However, monocrystalline material layer 26 may also comprise other semiconductor materials, metals, or non-metal materials which are used in the formation of semiconductor structures, devices and/or integrated circuits.

Appropriate materials for template 30 are discussed below. Suitable template materials chemically bond to the surface of the accommodating buffer layer 24 at selected sites and provide sites for the nucleation of the epitaxial growth of monocrystalline material layer 26. When used, template layer 30 has a thickness ranging from about 1 to about 10 monolayers.

FIG. 2 illustrates, in cross section, a portion of a semiconductor structure 40 in accordance with a further embodiment of the invention. Structure 40 is similar to the previously described semiconductor structure 20, except that an additional buffer layer 32 is positioned between accommodating buffer layer 24 and monocrystalline material layer 26. Specifically, the additional buffer layer is positioned between template layer 30 and the overlying layer of monocrystalline material. The additional buffer layer, formed of a semiconductor or compound semiconductor material when the monocrystalline material layer 26 comprises a semiconductor or compound semiconductor material, serves to provide a lattice compensation when the lattice constant of the accommodating buffer layer cannot be adequately matched to the overlying monocrystalline semiconductor or compound semiconductor material layer.

FIG. 3 schematically illustrates, in cross section, a portion of a semiconductor structure 34 in accordance with another exemplary embodiment of the invention. Structure 34 is similar to structure 20, except that structure 34 includes an amorphous layer 36, rather than accommodating buffer layer 24 and amorphous interface layer 28, and an additional monocrystalline layer 38.

As explained in greater detail below, amorphous layer 36 may be formed by first forming an accommodating buffer layer and an amorphous interface layer in a similar

manner to that described above. Monocrystalline layer 38 is then formed (by epitaxial growth) overlying the monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer. The accommodating buffer layer is then exposed to an anneal process to convert the monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer to an amorphous layer. Amorphous layer 5 36 formed in this manner comprises materials from both the accommodating buffer and interface layers, which amorphous layers may or may not amalgamate. Thus, layer 36 may comprise one or two amorphous layers. Formation of amorphous layer 36 between substrate 22 and additional monocrystalline layer 26 (subsequent to layer 38 formation) relieves stresses between layers 22 and 38 and provides a true compliant substrate for 10 subsequent processing--e.g., monocrystalline material layer 26 formation.

The processes previously described above in connection with FIGS. 1 and 2 are adequate for growing monocrystalline material layers over a monocrystalline substrate. However, the process described in connection with FIG. 3, which includes transforming a monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer to an amorphous oxide layer, may be 15 better for growing monocrystalline material layers because it allows any strain in layer 26 to relax.

Additional monocrystalline layer 38 may include any of the materials described throughout this application in connection with either of monocrystalline material layer 26 or additional buffer layer 32. For example, when monocrystalline material layer 26 20 comprises a semiconductor or compound semiconductor material, layer 38 may include monocrystalline Group IV or monocrystalline compound semiconductor materials.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, additional monocrystalline layer 38 serves as an anneal cap during layer 36 formation and as a template for subsequent monocrystalline layer 26 formation. Accordingly, layer 38 is 25 preferably thick enough to provide a suitable template for layer 26 growth (at least one monolayer) and thin enough to allow layer 38 to form as a substantially defect free monocrystalline material.

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, additional monocrystalline layer 38 comprises monocrystalline material (*e.g.*, a material discussed above in connection with monocrystalline layer 26) that is thick enough to form devices within layer 38. In this case, a semiconductor structure in accordance with the present invention does not include monocrystalline material layer 26. In other words, the semiconductor structure in accordance with this embodiment only includes one monocrystalline layer disposed above amorphous oxide layer 36.

The following non-limiting, illustrative examples illustrate various combinations of materials useful in structures 20, 40, and 34 in accordance with various alternative embodiments of the invention. These examples are merely illustrative, and it is not intended that the invention be limited to these illustrative examples.

Example 1

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, monocrystalline substrate 22 is a silicon substrate oriented in the (100) direction. The silicon substrate can be, for example, a silicon substrate as is commonly used in making complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) integrated circuits having a diameter of about 200-300 mm. In accordance with this embodiment of the invention, accommodating buffer layer 24 is a monocrystalline layer of $\text{Sr}_z\text{Ba}_{1-z}\text{TiO}_3$ where z ranges from 0 to 1 and the amorphous intermediate layer is a layer of silicon oxide (SiO_x) formed at the interface between the silicon substrate and the accommodating buffer layer. The value of z is selected to obtain one or more lattice constants closely matched to corresponding lattice constants of the subsequently formed layer 26. The accommodating buffer layer can have a thickness of about 2 to about 100 nanometers (nm) and preferably has a thickness of about 5 nm. In general, it is desired to have an accommodating buffer layer thick enough to isolate the monocrystalline material layer 26 from the substrate to obtain the desired electrical and optical properties. Layers thicker than 100 nm usually provide little additional benefit while increasing cost unnecessarily; however, thicker layers may be fabricated if needed. The amorphous intermediate layer of silicon oxide can have a thickness of about 0.5-5 nm, and preferably a thickness of about 1 to 2 nm.

In accordance with this embodiment of the invention, monocrystalline material layer 26 is a compound semiconductor layer of gallium arsenide (GaAs) or aluminum gallium arsenide (AlGaAs) having a thickness of about 1 nm to about 100 micrometers (μm) and preferably a thickness of about 0.5 μm to 10 μm . The thickness generally depends on the application for which the layer is being prepared. To facilitate the epitaxial growth of the gallium arsenide or aluminum gallium arsenide on the monocrystalline oxide, a template layer is formed by capping the oxide layer. The template layer is preferably 1-10 monolayers of Ti-As, Sr-O-As, Sr-Ga-O, or Sr-Al-O.

By way of a preferred example, 1-2 monolayers of Ti-As or Sr-Ga-O have been illustrated to successfully grow GaAs layers.

Example 2

5 In accordance with a further embodiment of the invention, monocrystalline substrate 22 is a silicon substrate as described above. The accommodating buffer layer is a monocrystalline oxide of strontium or barium zirconate or hafnate in a cubic or orthorhombic phase with an amorphous intermediate layer of silicon oxide formed at the interface between the silicon substrate and the accommodating buffer layer. The
10 accommodating buffer layer can have a thickness of about 2-100 nm and preferably has a thickness of at least 5 nm to ensure adequate crystalline and surface quality and is formed of a monocrystalline SrZrO_3 , BaZrO_3 , SrHfO_3 , BaSnO_3 or BaHfO_3 . For example, a monocrystalline oxide layer of BaZrO_3 can grow at a temperature of about 700 degrees C. The lattice structure of the resulting crystalline oxide exhibits a 45
15 degree rotation with respect to the substrate silicon lattice structure.

An accommodating buffer layer formed of these zirconate or hafnate materials is suitable for the growth of a monocrystalline material layer which comprises compound semiconductor materials in the indium phosphide (InP) system. In this system, the compound semiconductor material can be, for example, indium phosphide (InP),
20 indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs), aluminum indium arsenide, (AlInAs), or aluminum gallium indium arsenic phosphide (AlGaInAsP), having a thickness of about 1.0 nm to 10 μm . A suitable template for this structure is 1-10 monolayers of zirconium-arsenic (Zr-As), zirconium-phosphorus (Zr-P), hafnium-arsenic (Hf-As), hafnium-phosphorus (Hf-P), strontium-oxygen-arsenic (Sr-O-As), strontium-oxygen-phosphorus (Sr-O-P),
25 barium-oxygen-arsenic (Ba-O-As), indium-strontium-oxygen (In-Sr-O), or barium-oxygen-phosphorus (Ba-O-P), and preferably 1-2 monolayers of one of these materials. By way of an example, for a barium zirconate accommodating buffer layer, the surface is terminated with 1-2 monolayers of zirconium followed by deposition of 1-2

monolayers of arsenic to form a Zr-As template. A monocrystalline layer of the compound semiconductor material from the indium phosphide system is then grown on the template layer. The resulting lattice structure of the compound semiconductor material exhibits a 45 degree rotation with respect to the accommodating buffer layer lattice structure and a lattice mismatch to (100) InP of less than 2.5%, and preferably less than about 1.0%.

Example 3

In accordance with a further embodiment of the invention, a structure is provided that is suitable for the growth of an epitaxial film of a monocrystalline material comprising a II-VI material overlying a silicon substrate. The substrate is preferably a silicon wafer as described above. A suitable accommodating buffer layer material is $\text{Sr}_x\text{Ba}_{1-x}\text{TiO}_3$, where x ranges from 0 to 1, having a thickness of about 2-100 nm and preferably a thickness of about 5-15 nm. Where the monocrystalline layer comprises a compound semiconductor material, the II-VI compound semiconductor material can be, for example, zinc selenide (ZnSe) or zinc sulfur selenide (ZnSSe). A suitable template for this material system includes 1-10 monolayers of zinc-oxygen (Zn-O) followed by 1-2 monolayers of an excess of zinc followed by the selenidation of zinc on the surface. Alternatively, a template can be, for example, 1-10 monolayers of strontium-sulfur (Sr-S) followed by the ZnSeS.

Example 4

This embodiment of the invention is an example of structure 40 illustrated in FIG. 2. Substrate 22, accommodating buffer layer 24, and monocrystalline material layer 26 can be similar to those described in example 1. In addition, an additional buffer layer 32 serves to alleviate any strains that might result from a mismatch of the

crystal lattice of the accommodating buffer layer and the lattice of the monocrystalline material. Buffer layer 32 can be a layer of germanium or a GaAs, an aluminum gallium arsenide (AlGaAs), an indium gallium phosphide (InGaP), an aluminum gallium phosphide (AlGaP), an indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs), an aluminum indium phosphide (AlInP), a gallium arsenide phosphide (GaAsP), or an indium gallium phosphide (InGaP) strain compensated superlattice. In accordance with one aspect of this embodiment, buffer layer 32 includes a $\text{GaAs}_x\text{P}_{1-x}$ superlattice, wherein the value of x ranges from 0 to 1. In accordance with another aspect, buffer layer 32 includes an $\text{In}_y\text{Ga}_{1-y}\text{P}$ superlattice, wherein the value of y ranges from 0 to 1. By varying the value of x or y , as the case may be, the lattice constant is varied from bottom to top across the superlattice to create a match between lattice constants of the underlying oxide and the overlying monocrystalline material which in this example is a compound semiconductor material. The compositions of other compound semiconductor materials, such as those listed above, may also be similarly varied to manipulate the lattice constant of layer 32 in a like manner. The superlattice can have a thickness of about 50-500 nm and preferably has a thickness of about 100-200 nm. The template for this structure can be the same of that described in example 1. Alternatively, buffer layer 32 can be a layer of monocrystalline germanium having a thickness of 1-50 nm and preferably having a thickness of about 2-20 nm. In using a germanium buffer layer, a template layer of either germanium-strontium (Ge-Sr) or germanium-titanium (Ge-Ti) having a thickness of about one monolayer can be used as a nucleating site for the subsequent growth of the monocrystalline material layer which in this example is a compound semiconductor material. The formation of the oxide layer is capped with either a monolayer of strontium or a monolayer of titanium to act as a nucleating site for the subsequent deposition of the monocrystalline germanium. The monolayer of strontium or titanium provides a nucleating site to which the first monolayer of germanium can bond.

Example 5

This example also illustrates materials useful in a structure 40 as illustrated in FIG. 2. Substrate material 22, accommodating buffer layer 24, monocrystalline material layer 26 and template layer 30 can be the same as those described above in example 2. In addition, additional buffer layer 32 is inserted between the accommodating buffer layer and the overlying monocrystalline material layer. The buffer layer, a further monocrystalline material which in this instance comprises a semiconductor material, can be, for example, a graded layer of indium gallium arsenide (InGaAs) or indium aluminum arsenide (InAlAs). In accordance with one aspect of this embodiment, additional buffer layer 32 includes InGaAs, in which the indium composition varies from 0 to about 50%. The additional buffer layer 32 preferably has a thickness of about 10-30 nm. Varying the composition of the buffer layer from GaAs to InGaAs serves to provide a lattice match between the underlying monocrystalline oxide material and the overlying layer of monocrystalline material which in this example is a compound semiconductor material. Such a buffer layer is especially advantageous if there is a lattice mismatch between accommodating buffer layer 24 and monocrystalline material layer 26.

Example 6 This example provides exemplary materials useful in structure 34, as illustrated in FIG. 3. Substrate material 22, template layer 30, and monocrystalline material layer 26 may be the same as those described above in connection with example 1.

Amorphous layer 36 is an amorphous oxide layer which is suitably formed of a combination of amorphous intermediate layer materials (*e.g.*, layer 28 materials as described above) and accommodating buffer layer materials (*e.g.*, layer 24 materials as described above). For example, amorphous layer 36 may include a combination of SiO_x

and $\text{Sr}_z\text{Ba}_{1-z}\text{TiO}_3$ (where z ranges from 0 to 1), which combine or mix, at least partially, during an anneal process to form amorphous oxide layer 36.

The thickness of amorphous layer 36 may vary from application to application and may depend on such factors as desired insulating properties of layer 36, type of monocrystalline material comprising layer 26, and the like. In accordance with one exemplary aspect of the present embodiment, layer 36 thickness is about 2 nm to about 100 nm, preferably about 2-10 nm, and more preferably about 5-6 nm.

Layer 38 comprises a monocrystalline material that can be grown epitaxially over a monocrystalline oxide material such as material used to form accommodating buffer layer 24. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, layer 38 includes the same materials as those comprising layer 26. For example, if layer 26 includes GaAs, layer 38 also includes GaAs. However, in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention, layer 38 may include materials different from those used to form layer 26. In accordance with one exemplary embodiment of the invention, layer 38 is about 1 monolayer to about 100 nm thick.

Referring again to FIGS. 1 - 3, substrate 22 is a monocrystalline substrate such as a monocrystalline silicon or gallium arsenide substrate. The crystalline structure of the monocrystalline substrate is characterized by a lattice constant and by a lattice orientation. In similar manner, accommodating buffer layer 24 is also a monocrystalline material and the lattice of that monocrystalline material is characterized by a lattice constant and a crystal orientation. The lattice constants of the accommodating buffer layer and the monocrystalline substrate must be closely matched or, alternatively, must be such that upon rotation of one crystal orientation with respect to the other crystal orientation, a substantial match in lattice constants is achieved. In this context the terms "substantially equal" and "substantially matched" mean that there is sufficient similarity between the lattice constants to permit the growth of a high quality crystalline layer on the underlying layer.

FIG. 4 illustrates graphically the relationship of the achievable thickness of a grown crystal layer of high crystalline quality as a function of the mismatch between the lattice constants of the host crystal and the grown crystal. Curve 42 illustrates the boundary of high crystalline quality material. The area to the right of curve 42 represents layers that have a large number of defects. With no lattice mismatch, it is theoretically possible to grow an infinitely thick, high quality epitaxial layer on the host crystal. As the mismatch in lattice constants increases, the thickness of achievable, high quality crystalline layer decreases rapidly. As a reference point, for example, if the lattice constants between the host crystal and the grown layer are mismatched by more than about 2%, monocrystalline epitaxial layers in excess of about 20 nm cannot be achieved.

In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, substrate 22 is a (100) or (111) oriented monocrystalline silicon wafer and accommodating buffer layer 24 is a layer of strontium barium titanate. Substantial matching of lattice constants between these two materials is achieved by rotating the crystal orientation of the titanate material by 45° with respect to the crystal orientation of the silicon substrate wafer. The inclusion in the structure of amorphous interface layer 28, a silicon oxide layer in this example, if it is of sufficient thickness, serves to reduce strain in the titanate monocrystalline layer that might result from any mismatch in the lattice constants of the host silicon wafer and the grown titanate layer. As a result, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, a high quality, thick, monocrystalline titanate layer is achievable.

Still referring to FIGS. 1 - 3, layer 26 is a layer of epitaxially grown monocrystalline material and that crystalline material is also characterized by a crystal lattice constant and a crystal orientation. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the lattice constant of layer 26 differs from the lattice constant of substrate 22. To achieve high crystalline quality in this epitaxially grown monocrystalline layer, the accommodating buffer layer must be of high crystalline quality. In addition, in

order to achieve high crystalline quality in layer 26, substantial matching between the crystal lattice constant of the host crystal, in this case, the monocrystalline accommodating buffer layer, and the grown crystal is desired. With properly selected materials this substantial matching of lattice constants is achieved as a result of rotation of the crystal orientation of the grown crystal with respect to the orientation of the host crystal. For example, if the grown crystal is gallium arsenide, aluminum gallium arsenide, zinc selenide, or zinc sulfur selenide and the accommodating buffer layer is monocrystalline $\text{Sr}_x\text{Ba}_{1-x}\text{TiO}_3$, substantial matching of crystal lattice constants of the two materials is achieved, wherein the crystal orientation of the grown layer is rotated by 45° with respect to the orientation of the host monocrystalline oxide. Similarly, if the host material is a strontium or barium zirconate or a strontium or barium hafnate or barium tin oxide and the compound semiconductor layer is indium phosphide or gallium indium arsenide or aluminum indium arsenide, substantial matching of crystal lattice constants can be achieved by rotating the orientation of the grown crystal layer by 45° with respect to the host oxide crystal. In some instances, a crystalline semiconductor buffer layer between the host oxide and the grown monocrystalline material layer can be used to reduce strain in the grown monocrystalline material layer that might result from small differences in lattice constants. Better crystalline quality in the grown monocrystalline material layer can thereby be achieved.

The following example illustrates a process, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention, for fabricating a semiconductor structure such as the structures depicted in FIGS. 1 - 3. The process starts by providing a monocrystalline semiconductor substrate comprising silicon or germanium. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the semiconductor substrate is a silicon wafer having a (100) orientation. The substrate is preferably oriented on axis or, at most, about 4° off axis. At least a portion of the semiconductor substrate has a bare surface, although other portions of the substrate, as described below, may encompass other structures. The term "bare" in this context means that the surface in the portion of the

substrate has been cleaned to remove any oxides, contaminants, or other foreign material. As is well known, bare silicon is highly reactive and readily forms a native oxide. The term "bare" is intended to encompass such a native oxide. A thin silicon oxide may also be intentionally grown on the semiconductor substrate, although such a grown oxide is not essential to the process in accordance with the invention. In order to epitaxially grow a monocrystalline oxide layer overlying the monocrystalline substrate, the native oxide layer must first be removed to expose the crystalline structure of the underlying substrate. The following process is preferably carried out by molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), although other epitaxial processes may also be used in accordance with the present invention. The native oxide can be removed by first thermally depositing a thin layer of strontium, barium, a combination of strontium and barium, or other alkaline earth metals or combinations of alkaline earth metals in an MBE apparatus. In the case where strontium is used, the substrate is then heated to a temperature of about 750° C to cause the strontium to react with the native silicon oxide layer. The strontium serves to reduce the silicon oxide to leave a silicon oxide-free surface. The resultant surface, which exhibits an ordered 2x1 structure, includes strontium, oxygen, and silicon. The ordered 2x1 structure forms a template for the ordered growth of an overlying layer of a monocrystalline oxide. The template provides the necessary chemical and physical properties to nucleate the crystalline growth of an overlying layer.

In accordance with an alternate embodiment of the invention, the native silicon oxide can be converted and the substrate surface can be prepared for the growth of a monocrystalline oxide layer by depositing an alkaline earth metal oxide, such as strontium oxide, strontium barium oxide, or barium oxide, onto the substrate surface by MBE at a low temperature and by subsequently heating the structure to a temperature of about 750°C. At this temperature a solid state reaction takes place between the strontium oxide and the native silicon oxide causing the reduction of the native silicon oxide and leaving an ordered 2x1 structure with strontium, oxygen, and silicon

remaining on the substrate surface. Again, this forms a template for the subsequent growth of an ordered monocrystalline oxide layer.

Following the removal of the silicon oxide from the surface of the substrate, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the substrate is cooled to a temperature in the range of about 200-800°C and a layer of strontium titanate is grown on the template layer by molecular beam epitaxy. The MBE process is initiated by opening shutters in the MBE apparatus to expose strontium, titanium and oxygen sources. The ratio of strontium and titanium is approximately 1:1. The partial pressure of oxygen is initially set at a minimum value to grow stoichiometric strontium titanate at a growth rate of about 0.3-0.5 nm per minute. After initiating growth of the strontium titanate, the partial pressure of oxygen is increased above the initial minimum value. The overpressure of oxygen causes the growth of an amorphous silicon oxide layer at the interface between the underlying substrate and the growing strontium titanate layer. The growth of the silicon oxide layer results from the diffusion of oxygen through the growing strontium titanate layer to the interface where the oxygen reacts with silicon at the surface of the underlying substrate. The strontium titanate grows as an ordered (100) monocrystal with the (100) crystalline orientation rotated by 45° with respect to the underlying substrate. Strain that otherwise might exist in the strontium titanate layer because of the small mismatch in lattice constant between the silicon substrate and the growing crystal is relieved in the amorphous silicon oxide intermediate layer.

After the strontium titanate layer has been grown to the desired thickness, the monocrystalline strontium titanate is capped by a template layer that is conducive to the subsequent growth of an epitaxial layer of a desired monocrystalline material. For example, for the subsequent growth of a monocrystalline compound semiconductor material layer of gallium arsenide, the MBE growth of the strontium titanate monocrystalline layer can be capped by terminating the growth with 1-2 monolayers of titanium, 1-2 monolayers of titanium-oxygen or with 1-2 monolayers of strontium-

oxygen. Following the formation of this capping layer, arsenic is deposited to form a Ti-As bond, a Ti-O-As bond or a Sr-O-As. Any of these form an appropriate template for deposition and formation of a gallium arsenide monocrystalline layer. Following the formation of the template, gallium is subsequently introduced to the reaction with the arsenic and gallium arsenide forms. Alternatively, gallium can be deposited on the capping layer to form a Sr-O-Ga bond, and arsenic is subsequently introduced with the gallium to form the GaAs.

FIG. 5 is a high resolution Transmission Electron Micrograph (TEM) of semiconductor material manufactured in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Single crystal SrTiO_3 accommodating buffer layer 24 was grown epitaxially on silicon substrate 22. During this growth process, amorphous interfacial layer 28 is formed which relieves strain due to lattice mismatch. GaAs compound semiconductor layer 26 was then grown epitaxially using template layer 30.

FIG. 6 illustrates an x-ray diffraction spectrum taken on a structure including GaAs monocrystalline layer 26 comprising GaAs grown on silicon substrate 22 using accommodating buffer layer 24. The peaks in the spectrum indicate that both the accommodating buffer layer 24 and GaAs compound semiconductor layer 26 are single crystal and (100) orientated.

The structure illustrated in FIG. 2 can be formed by the process discussed above with the addition of an additional buffer layer deposition step. The additional buffer layer 32 is formed overlying the template layer before the deposition of the monocrystalline material layer. If the buffer layer is a monocrystalline material comprising a compound semiconductor superlattice, such a superlattice can be deposited, by MBE for example, on the template described above. If instead the buffer layer is a monocrystalline material layer comprising a layer of germanium, the process above is modified to cap the strontium titanate monocrystalline layer with a final layer of either strontium or titanium and then by depositing germanium to react with the

strontium or titanium. The germanium buffer layer can then be deposited directly on this template.

Structure 34, illustrated in FIG. 3, may be formed by growing an accommodating buffer layer, forming an amorphous oxide layer over substrate 22, and growing semiconductor layer 38 over the accommodating buffer layer, as described above. The accommodating buffer layer and the amorphous oxide layer are then exposed to an anneal process sufficient to change the crystalline structure of the accommodating buffer layer from monocrystalline to amorphous, thereby forming an amorphous layer such that the combination of the amorphous oxide layer and the now amorphous accommodating buffer layer form a single amorphous oxide layer 36. Layer 26 is then subsequently grown over layer 38. Alternatively, the anneal process may be carried out subsequent to growth of layer 26.

In accordance with one aspect of this embodiment, layer 36 is formed by exposing substrate 22, the accommodating buffer layer, the amorphous oxide layer, and monocrystalline layer 38 to a rapid thermal anneal process with a peak temperature of about 700°C to about 1000°C and a process time of about 5 seconds to about 10 minutes. However, other suitable anneal processes may be employed to convert the accommodating buffer layer to an amorphous layer in accordance with the present invention. For example, laser annealing, electron beam annealing, or “conventional” thermal annealing processes (in the proper environment) may be used to form layer 36. When conventional thermal annealing is employed to form layer 36, an overpressure of one or more constituents of layer 30 may be required to prevent degradation of layer 38 during the anneal process. For example, when layer 38 includes GaAs, the anneal environment preferably includes an overpressure of arsenic to mitigate degradation of layer 38.

As noted above, layer 38 of structure 34 may include any materials suitable for either of layers 32 or 26. Accordingly, any deposition or growth methods described in connection with either layer 32 or 26 may be employed to deposit layer 38.

FIG. 7 is a high resolution TEM of semiconductor material manufactured in accordance with the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIG. 3. In accordance with this embodiment, a single crystal SrTiO_3 accommodating buffer layer was grown epitaxially on silicon substrate 22. During this growth process, an amorphous interfacial layer forms as described above. Next, additional monocrystalline layer 38 comprising a compound semiconductor layer of GaAs is formed above the accommodating buffer layer and the accommodating buffer layer is exposed to an anneal process to form amorphous oxide layer 36.

FIG. 8 illustrates an x-ray diffraction spectrum taken on a structure including additional monocrystalline layer 38 comprising a GaAs compound semiconductor layer and amorphous oxide layer 36 formed on silicon substrate 22. The peaks in the spectrum indicate that GaAs compound semiconductor layer 38 is single crystal and (100) orientated and the lack of peaks around 40 to 50 degrees indicates that layer 36 is amorphous.

The process described above illustrates a process for forming a semiconductor structure including a silicon substrate, an overlying oxide layer, and a monocrystalline material layer comprising a gallium arsenide compound semiconductor layer by the process of molecular beam epitaxy. The process can also be carried out by the process of chemical vapor deposition (CVD), metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), migration enhanced epitaxy (MEE), atomic layer epitaxy (ALE), physical vapor deposition (PVD), chemical solution deposition (CSD), pulsed laser deposition (PLD), or the like. Further, by a similar process, other monocrystalline accommodating buffer layers such as alkaline earth metal titanates, zirconates, hafnates, tantalates, vanadates, ruthenates, and niobates, alkaline earth metal tin-based perovskites, lanthanum aluminate, lanthanum scandium oxide, and gadolinium oxide can also be grown. Further, by a similar process such as MBE, other monocrystalline material layers comprising other III-V and II-VI monocrystalline compound semiconductors,

semiconductors, metals and non-metals can be deposited overlying the monocrystalline oxide accommodating buffer layer.

Each of the variations of monocrystalline material layer and monocrystalline oxide accommodating buffer layer uses an appropriate template for initiating the growth of the monocrystalline material layer. For example, if the accommodating buffer layer is an alkaline earth metal zirconate, the oxide can be capped by a thin layer of zirconium. The deposition of zirconium can be followed by the deposition of arsenic or phosphorus to react with the zirconium as a precursor to depositing indium gallium arsenide, indium aluminum arsenide, or indium phosphide respectively. Similarly, if the monocrystalline oxide accommodating buffer layer is an alkaline earth metal hafnate, the oxide layer can be capped by a thin layer of hafnium. The deposition of hafnium is followed by the deposition of arsenic or phosphorous to react with the hafnium as a precursor to the growth of an indium gallium arsenide, indium aluminum arsenide, or indium phosphide layer, respectively. In a similar manner, strontium titanate can be capped with a layer of strontium or strontium and oxygen and barium titanate can be capped with a layer of barium or barium and oxygen. Each of these depositions can be followed by the deposition of arsenic or phosphorus to react with the capping material to form a template for the deposition of a monocrystalline material layer comprising compound semiconductors such as indium gallium arsenide, indium aluminum arsenide, or indium phosphide.

The formation of a device structure in accordance with another embodiment of the invention is illustrated schematically in cross-section in FIGS. 9-12. Like the previously described embodiments referred to in FIGS. 1-3, this embodiment of the invention involves the process of forming a compliant substrate utilizing the epitaxial growth of single crystal oxides, such as the formation of accommodating buffer layer 24 previously described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2 and amorphous layer 36 previously described with reference to FIG. 3, and the formation of a template layer 30.

However, the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 9-12 utilizes a template that includes a surfactant to facilitate layer-by-layer monocrystalline material growth.

Turning now to FIG. 9, an amorphous intermediate layer 58 is grown on substrate 52 at the interface between substrate 52 and a growing accommodating buffer layer 54, which is preferably a monocrystalline crystal oxide layer, by the oxidation of substrate 52 during the growth of layer 54. Layer 54 is preferably a monocrystalline oxide material such as a monocrystalline layer of $\text{Sr}_z\text{Ba}_{1-z}\text{TiO}_3$ where z ranges from 0 to 1. However, layer 54 may also comprise any of those compounds previously described with reference layer 24 in FIGS. 1-2 and any of those compounds previously described with reference to layer 36 in FIG. 3 which is formed from layers 24 and 28 referenced in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Layer 54 is grown with a strontium (Sr) terminated surface represented in FIG. 9 by hatched line 55 which is followed by the addition of a template layer 60 which includes a surfactant layer 61 and capping layer 63 as illustrated in FIGS. 10 and 11. Surfactant layer 61 may comprise, but is not limited to, elements such as Al, In and Ga, but will be dependent upon the composition of layer 54 and the overlying layer of monocrystalline material for optimal results. In one exemplary embodiment, aluminum (Al) is used for surfactant layer 61 and functions to modify the surface and surface energy of layer 54. Preferably, surfactant layer 61 is epitaxially grown, to a thickness of one to two monolayers, over layer 54 as illustrated in FIG. 10 by way of molecular beam epitaxy (MBE), although other epitaxial processes may also be performed including chemical vapor deposition (CVD), metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD), migration enhanced epitaxy (MEE), atomic layer epitaxy (ALE), physical vapor deposition (PVD), chemical solution deposition (CSD), pulsed laser deposition (PLD), or the like.

Surfactant layer 61 is then exposed to a Group V element such as arsenic, for example, to form capping layer 63 as illustrated in FIG. 11. Surfactant layer 61 may be exposed to a number of materials to create capping layer 63 such as elements which

include, but are not limited to, As, P, Sb and N. Surfactant layer 61 and capping layer 63 combine to form template layer 60.

Monocrystalline material layer 66, which in this example is a compound semiconductor such as GaAs, is then deposited via MBE, CVD, MOCVD, MEE, ALE, PVD, CSD, PLD, and the like to form the final structure illustrated in FIG. 12.

FIGS. 13-16 illustrate possible molecular bond structures for a specific example of a compound semiconductor structure formed in accordance with the embodiment of the invention illustrated in FIGS. 9-12. More specifically, FIGS. 13-16 illustrate the growth of GaAs (layer 66) on the strontium terminated surface of a strontium titanate monocrystalline oxide (layer 54) using a surfactant containing template (layer 60).

The growth of a monocrystalline material layer 66 such as GaAs on an accommodating buffer layer 54 such as a strontium titanium oxide over amorphous interface layer 58 and substrate layer 52, both of which may comprise materials previously described with reference to layers 28 and 22, respectively in FIGS. 1 and 2, illustrates a critical thickness of about 1000 Angstroms where the two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) growth shifts because of the surface energies involved. In order to maintain a true layer by layer growth (Frank Van der Mere growth), the following relationship must be satisfied:

$$\delta_{STO} > (\delta_{INT} + \delta_{GaAs})$$

where the surface energy of the monocrystalline oxide layer 54 must be greater than the surface energy of the amorphous interface layer 58 added to the surface energy of the GaAs layer 66. Since it is impracticable to satisfy this equation, a surfactant containing template was used, as described above with reference to FIGS. 10-12, to increase the surface energy of the monocrystalline oxide layer 54 and also to shift the crystalline structure of the template to a diamond-like structure that is in compliance with the original GaAs layer.

FIG. 13 illustrates the molecular bond structure of a strontium terminated surface of a strontium titanate monocrystalline oxide layer. An aluminum surfactant

layer is deposited on top of the strontium terminated surface and bonds with that surface as illustrated in FIG. 14, which reacts to form a capping layer comprising a monolayer of Al_2Sr having the molecular bond structure illustrated in FIG. 14 which forms a diamond-like structure with an sp^3 hybrid terminated surface that is compliant with compound semiconductors such as GaAs. The structure is then exposed to As to form a layer of AlAs as shown in FIG. 15. GaAs is then deposited to complete the molecular bond structure illustrated in FIG. 16 which has been obtained by 2D growth. The GaAs can be grown to any thickness for forming other semiconductor structures, devices, or integrated circuits. Alkaline earth metals such as those in Group IIA are those elements preferably used to form the capping surface of the monocrystalline oxide layer 54 because they are capable of forming a desired molecular structure with aluminum.

In this embodiment, a surfactant containing template layer aids in the formation of a compliant substrate for the monolithic integration of various material layers including those comprised of Group III-V compounds to form high quality semiconductor structures, devices and integrated circuits. For example, a surfactant containing template may be used for the monolithic integration of a monocrystalline material layer such as a layer comprising Germanium (Ge), for example, to form high efficiency photocells.

Turning now to FIGS. 17-20, the formation of a device structure in accordance with still another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in cross-section. This embodiment utilizes the formation of a compliant substrate which relies on the epitaxial growth of single crystal oxides on silicon followed by the epitaxial growth of single crystal silicon onto the oxide.

An accommodating buffer layer 74 such as a monocrystalline oxide layer is first grown on a substrate layer 72, such as silicon, with an amorphous interface layer 78 as illustrated in FIG. 17. Monocrystalline oxide layer 74 may be comprised of any of those materials previously discussed with reference to layer 24 in FIGS. 1 and 2, while amorphous interface layer 78 is preferably comprised of any of those materials

previously described with reference to the layer 28 illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Substrate 72, although preferably silicon, may also comprise any of those materials previously described with reference to substrate 22 in FIGS. 1-3.

Next, a silicon layer 81 is deposited over monocrystalline oxide layer 74 via
5 MBE, CVD, MOCVD, MEE, ALE, PVD, CSD, PLD, and the like as illustrated in FIG. 18 with a thickness of a few hundred Angstroms but preferably with a thickness of about 50 Angstroms. Monocrystalline oxide layer 74 preferably has a thickness of about 20 to 100 Angstroms.

Rapid thermal annealing is then conducted in the presence of a carbon source
10 such as acetylene or methane, for example at a temperature within a range of about 800°C to 1000°C to form capping layer 82 and silicate amorphous layer 86. However, other suitable carbon sources may be used as long as the rapid thermal annealing step functions to amorphize the monocrystalline oxide layer 74 into a silicate amorphous layer 86 and carbonize the top silicon layer 81 to form capping layer 82 which in this
15 example would be a silicon carbide (SiC) layer as illustrated in FIG. 19. The formation of amorphous layer 86 is similar to the formation of layer 36 illustrated in FIG. 3 and may comprise any of those materials described with reference to layer 36 in FIG. 3 but the preferable material will be dependent upon the capping layer 82 used for silicon layer 81.

20 Finally, a compound semiconductor layer 96, such as gallium nitride (GaN) is grown over the SiC surface by way of MBE, CVD, MOCVD, MEE, ALE, PVD, CSD, PLD, or the like to form a high quality compound semiconductor material for device formation. More specifically, the deposition of GaN and GaN based systems such as GaInN and AlGaIn will result in the formation of dislocation nets confined at the
25 silicon/amorphous region. The resulting nitride containing compound semiconductor material may comprise elements from groups III, IV and V of the periodic table and is defect free.

Although GaN has been grown on SiC substrate in the past, this embodiment of the invention possesses a one step formation of the compliant substrate containing a SiC top surface and an amorphous layer on a Si surface. More specifically, this embodiment of the invention uses an intermediate single crystal oxide layer that is amorphosized to form a silicate layer which adsorbs the strain between the layers. Moreover, unlike past use of a SiC substrate, this embodiment of the invention is not limited by wafer size which is usually less than 50mm in diameter for prior art SiC substrates.

The monolithic integration of nitride containing semiconductor compounds containing group III-V nitrides and silicon devices can be used for high temperature RF applications and optoelectronics. GaN systems have particular use in the photonic industry for the blue/green and UV light sources and detection. High brightness light emitting diodes (LEDs) and lasers may also be formed within the GaN system.

FIGS. 21-23 schematically illustrate, in cross-section, the formation of another embodiment of a device structure in accordance with the invention. This embodiment includes a compliant layer that functions as a transition layer that uses clathrate or Zintl type bonding. More specifically, this embodiment utilizes an intermetallic template layer to reduce the surface energy of the interface between material layers thereby allowing for two dimensional layer by layer growth.

The structure illustrated in FIG. 21 includes a monocrystalline substrate 102, an amorphous interface layer 108 and an accommodating buffer layer 104. Amorphous interface layer 108 is formed on substrate 102 at the interface between substrate 102 and accommodating buffer layer 104 as previously described with reference to FIGS. 1 and 2. Amorphous interface layer 108 may comprise any of those materials previously described with reference to amorphous interface layer 28 in FIGS. 1 and 2 but preferably comprises a monocrystalline oxide material. Substrate 102 is preferably silicon but may also comprise any of those materials previously described with reference to substrate 22 in FIGS. 1-3.

A template layer 130 is deposited over accommodating buffer layer 104 as illustrated in FIG. 22 and preferably comprises a thin layer of Zintl type phase material composed of metals and metalloids having a great deal of ionic character. As in previously described embodiments, template layer 130 is deposited by way of MBE,
5 CVD, MOCVD, MEE, ALE, PVD, CSD, PLD, or the like to achieve a thickness of one monolayer. Template layer 130 functions as a "soft" layer with non-directional bonding but high crystallinity which absorbs stress build up between layers having lattice mismatch. Materials for template 130 may include, but are not limited to, materials containing Si, Ga, In, and Sb such as, for example, AlSr_2 , $(\text{MgCaYb})\text{Ga}_2$,
10 $(\text{Ca,Sr,Eu,Yb})\text{In}_2$, BaGe_2As , and SrSn_2As_2

A monocrystalline material layer 126 is epitaxially grown over template layer 130 to achieve the final structure illustrated in FIG. 23. As a specific example, an SrAl_2 layer may be used as template layer 130 and an appropriate monocrystalline material layer 126 such as a compound semiconductor material GaAs is grown over the SrAl_2 .
15 The Al-Ti (from the accommodating buffer layer of layer of $\text{Sr}_z\text{Ba}_{1-z}\text{TiO}_3$ where z ranges from 0 to 1) bond is mostly metallic while the Al-As (from the GaAs layer) bond is weakly covalent. The Sr participates in two distinct types of bonding with part of its electric charge going to the oxygen atoms in the lower accommodating buffer layer 104 comprising $\text{Sr}_z\text{Ba}_{1-z}\text{TiO}_3$ to participate in ionic bonding and the other part of its valence
20 charge being donated to Al in a way that is typically carried out with Zintl phase materials. The amount of the charge transfer depends on the relative electronegativity of elements comprising the template layer 130 as well as on the interatomic distance. In this example, Al assumes an sp^3 hybridization and can readily form bonds with monocrystalline material layer 126, which in this example, comprises compound
25 semiconductor material GaAs.

The compliant substrate produced by use of the Zintl type template layer used in this embodiment can absorb a large strain without a significant energy cost. In the above example, the bond strength of the Al is adjusted by changing the volume of the

SrAl₂ layer thereby making the device tunable for specific applications which include the monolithic integration of III-V and Si devices and the monolithic integration of high-k dielectric materials for CMOS technology.

Clearly, those embodiments specifically describing structures having compound semiconductor portions and Group IV semiconductor portions, are meant to illustrate
5 embodiments of the present invention and not limit the present invention. There are a multiplicity of other combinations and other embodiments of the present invention. For example, the present invention includes structures and methods for fabricating material layers which form semiconductor structures, devices and integrated circuits including
10 other layers such as metal and non-metal layers. More specifically, the invention includes structures and methods for forming a compliant substrate which is used in the fabrication of semiconductor structures, devices and integrated circuits and the material layers suitable for fabricating those structures, devices, and integrated circuits. By using embodiments of the present invention, it is now simpler to integrate devices that
15 include monocrystalline layers comprising semiconductor and compound semiconductor materials as well as other material layers that are used to form those devices with other components that work better or are easily and/or inexpensively formed within semiconductor or compound semiconductor materials. This allows a device to be shrunk, the manufacturing costs to decrease, and yield and reliability to
20 increase.

In accordance with one embodiment of this invention, a monocrystalline semiconductor or compound semiconductor wafer can be used in forming monocrystalline material layers over the wafer. In this manner, the wafer is essentially a "handle" wafer used during the fabrication of semiconductor electrical components
25 within a monocrystalline layer overlying the wafer. Therefore, electrical components can be formed within semiconductor materials over a wafer of at least approximately 200 millimeters in diameter and possibly at least approximately 300 millimeters.

By the use of this type of substrate, a relatively inexpensive "handle" wafer overcomes the fragile nature of compound semiconductor or other monocrystalline material wafers by placing them over a relatively more durable and easy to fabricate base material. Therefore, an integrated circuit can be formed such that all electrical components, and particularly all active electronic devices, can be formed within or using the monocrystalline material layer even though the substrate itself may include a monocrystalline semiconductor material. Fabrication costs for compound semiconductor devices and other devices employing non-silicon monocrystalline materials should decrease because larger substrates can be processed more economically and more readily compared to the relatively smaller and more fragile substrates (e.g. conventional compound semiconductor wafers).

FIG. 24 illustrates schematically, in cross section, a device structure 50 in accordance with a further embodiment. Device structure 50 includes a monocrystalline semiconductor substrate 52, preferably a monocrystalline silicon wafer.

Monocrystalline semiconductor substrate 52 includes two regions, 53 and 57. An electrical semiconductor component generally indicated by the dashed line 56 is formed, at least partially, in region 53. Electrical component 56 can be a resistor, a capacitor, an active semiconductor component such as a diode or a transistor or an integrated circuit such as a CMOS integrated circuit. For example, electrical semiconductor component 56 can be a CMOS integrated circuit configured to perform digital signal processing or another function for which silicon integrated circuits are well suited. The electrical semiconductor component in region 53 can be formed by conventional semiconductor processing as well known and widely practiced in the semiconductor industry. A layer of insulating material 59 such as a layer of silicon dioxide or the like may overlie electrical semiconductor component 56.

Insulating material 59 and any other layers that may have been formed or deposited during the processing of semiconductor component 56 in region 53 are removed from the surface of region 57 to provide a bare silicon surface in that region.

As is well known, bare silicon surfaces are highly reactive and a native silicon oxide layer can quickly form on the bare surface. A layer of barium or barium and oxygen is deposited onto the native oxide layer on the surface of region 57 and is reacted with the oxidized surface to form a first template layer (not shown). In accordance with one embodiment, a monocrystalline oxide layer is formed overlying the template layer by a process of molecular beam epitaxy. Reactants including barium, titanium and oxygen are deposited onto the template layer to form the monocrystalline oxide layer. Initially during the deposition the partial pressure of oxygen is kept near the minimum necessary to fully react with the barium and titanium to form monocrystalline barium titanate layer. The partial pressure of oxygen is then increased to provide an overpressure of oxygen and to allow oxygen to diffuse through the growing monocrystalline oxide layer. The oxygen diffusing through the barium titanate reacts with silicon at the surface of region 57 to form an amorphous layer of silicon oxide 62 on second region 57 and at the interface between silicon substrate 52 and the monocrystalline oxide layer 65. Layers 65 and 62 may be subject to an annealing process as described above in connection with FIG. 3 to form a single amorphous accommodating layer.

In accordance with an embodiment, the step of depositing the monocrystalline oxide layer 65 is terminated by depositing a second template layer 64, which can be 1-10 monolayers of titanium, barium, barium and oxygen, or titanium and oxygen. A layer 66 of a monocrystalline compound semiconductor material is then deposited overlying second template layer 64 by a process of molecular beam epitaxy. The deposition of layer 66 is initiated by depositing a layer of arsenic onto template 64. This initial step is followed by depositing gallium and arsenic to form monocrystalline gallium arsenide 66. Alternatively, strontium can be substituted for barium in the above example.

In accordance with a further embodiment, a semiconductor component, generally indicated by a dashed line 68 is formed in compound semiconductor layer 66. Semiconductor component 68 can be formed by processing steps conventionally used in

the fabrication of gallium arsenide or other III-V compound semiconductor material devices. Semiconductor component 68 can be any active or passive component, and preferably is a semiconductor laser, light emitting diode, photodetector, heterojunction bipolar transistor (HBT), high frequency MESFET, or other component that utilizes and
5 takes advantage of the physical properties of compound semiconductor materials. A metallic conductor schematically indicated by the line 70 can be formed to electrically couple device 68 and device 56, thus implementing an integrated device that includes at least one component formed in silicon substrate 52 and one device formed in monocrystalline compound semiconductor material layer 66. Although illustrative
10 structure 50 has been described as a structure formed on a silicon substrate 52 and having a barium (or strontium) titanate layer 65 and a gallium arsenide layer 66, similar devices can be fabricated using other substrates, monocrystalline oxide layers and other compound semiconductor layers as described elsewhere in this disclosure.

FIG. 25 illustrates a semiconductor structure 71 in accordance with a further
15 embodiment. Structure 71 includes a monocrystalline semiconductor substrate 73 such as a monocrystalline silicon wafer that includes a region 75 and a region 76. An electrical component schematically illustrated by the dashed line 79 is formed in region 75 using conventional silicon device processing techniques commonly used in the semiconductor industry. Using process steps similar to those described above, a
20 monocrystalline oxide layer 80 and an intermediate amorphous silicon oxide layer 83 are formed overlying region 76 of substrate 73. A template layer 84 and subsequently a monocrystalline semiconductor layer 87 are formed overlying monocrystalline oxide layer 80. In accordance with a further embodiment, an additional monocrystalline oxide layer 88 is formed overlying layer 87 by process steps similar to those used to form
25 layer 80, and an additional monocrystalline semiconductor layer 90 is formed overlying monocrystalline oxide layer 88 by process steps similar to those used to form layer 87. In accordance with one embodiment, at least one of layers 87 and 90 are formed from a compound semiconductor material. Layers 80 and 83 may be subject to an annealing

process as described above in connection with FIG. 3 to form a single amorphous accommodating layer.

A semiconductor component generally indicated by a dashed line 92 is formed at least partially in monocrystalline semiconductor layer 87. In accordance with one embodiment, semiconductor component 92 may include a field effect transistor having a gate dielectric formed, in part, by monocrystalline oxide layer 88. In addition, monocrystalline semiconductor layer 90 can be used to implement the gate electrode of that field effect transistor. In accordance with one embodiment, monocrystalline semiconductor layer 87 is formed from a group III-V compound and semiconductor component 92 is a radio frequency amplifier that takes advantage of the high mobility characteristic of group III-V component materials. In accordance with yet a further embodiment, an electrical interconnection schematically illustrated by the line 94 electrically interconnects component 79 and component 92. Structure 71 thus integrates components that take advantage of the unique properties of the two monocrystalline semiconductor materials.

Attention is now directed to a method for forming exemplary portions of illustrative composite semiconductor structures or composite integrated circuits like 50 or 71. In particular, the illustrative composite semiconductor structure or integrated circuit 103 shown in FIGs. 26-30 includes a compound semiconductor portion 1022, a bipolar portion 1024, and a MOS portion 1026. In FIG. 26, a p-type doped, monocrystalline silicon substrate 110 is provided having a compound semiconductor portion 1022, a bipolar portion 1024, and an MOS portion 1026. Within bipolar portion 1024, the monocrystalline silicon substrate 110 is doped to form an N^+ buried region 1102. A lightly p-type doped epitaxial monocrystalline silicon layer 1104 is then formed over the buried region 1102 and the substrate 110. A doping step is then performed to create a lightly n-type doped drift region 1117 above the N^+ buried region 1102. The doping step converts the dopant type of the lightly p-type epitaxial layer within a section of the bipolar region 1024 to a lightly n-type monocrystalline silicon

region. A field isolation region 1106 is then formed between and around the bipolar portion 1024 and the MOS portion 1026. A gate dielectric layer 1110 is formed over a portion of the epitaxial layer 1104 within MOS portion 1026, and the gate electrode 1112 is then formed over the gate dielectric layer 1110. Sidewall spacers 1115 are
5 formed along vertical sides of the gate electrode 1112 and gate dielectric layer 1110.

A p-type dopant is introduced into the drift region 1117 to form an active or intrinsic base region 1114. An n-type, deep collector region 1108 is then formed within the bipolar portion 1024 to allow electrical connection to the buried region 1102. Selective n-type doping is performed to form N^+ doped regions 1116 and the emitter
10 region 1120. N^+ doped regions 1116 are formed within layer 1104 along adjacent sides of the gate electrode 1112 and are source, drain, or source/drain regions for the MOS transistor. The N^+ doped regions 1116 and emitter region 1120 have a doping concentration of at least $1E19$ atoms per cubic centimeter to allow ohmic contacts to be formed. A p-type doped region is formed to create the inactive or extrinsic base region
15 1118 which is a P^+ doped region (doping concentration of at least $1E19$ atoms per cubic centimeter).

In the embodiment described, several processing steps have been performed but are not illustrated or further described, such as the formation of well regions, threshold adjusting implants, channel punchthrough prevention implants, field punchthrough
20 prevention implants, as well as a variety of masking layers. The formation of the device up to this point in the process is performed using conventional steps. As illustrated, a standard N-channel MOS transistor has been formed within the MOS region 1026, and a vertical NPN bipolar transistor has been formed within the bipolar portion 1024. Although illustrated with a NPN bipolar transistor and a N-channel MOS transistor,
25 device structures and circuits in accordance with various embodiments may additionally or alternatively include other electronic devices formed using the silicon substrate. As of this point, no circuitry has been formed within the compound semiconductor portion 1022.

After the silicon devices are formed in regions 1024 and 1026, a protective layer 1122 is formed overlying devices in regions 1024 and 1026 to protect devices in regions 1024 and 1026 from potential damage resulting from device formation in region 1022. Layer 1122 may be formed of, for example, an insulating material such as silicon oxide or silicon nitride.

All of the layers that have been formed during the processing of the bipolar and MOS portions of the integrated circuit, except for epitaxial layer 1104 but including protective layer 1122, are now removed from the surface of compound semiconductor portion 1022. A bare silicon surface is thus provided for the subsequent processing of this portion, for example in the manner set forth above.

An accommodating buffer layer 124 is then formed over the substrate 110 as illustrated in FIG. 27. The accommodating buffer layer will form as a monocrystalline layer over the properly prepared (i.e., having the appropriate template layer) bare silicon surface in portion 1022. The portion of layer 124 that forms over portions 1024 and 1026, however, may be polycrystalline or amorphous because it is formed over a material that is not monocrystalline, and therefore, does not nucleate monocrystalline growth. The accommodating buffer layer 124 typically is a monocrystalline metal oxide or nitride layer and typically has a thickness in a range of approximately 2-100 nanometers. In one particular embodiment, the accommodating buffer layer is approximately 5-15 nm thick. During the formation of the accommodating buffer layer, an amorphous intermediate layer 122 is formed along the uppermost silicon surfaces of the integrated circuit 103. This amorphous intermediate layer 122 typically includes an oxide of silicon and has a thickness and range of approximately 1-5 nm. In one particular embodiment, the thickness is approximately 2 nm. Following the formation of the accommodating buffer layer 124 and the amorphous intermediate layer 122, a template layer 125 is then formed and has a thickness in a range of approximately one to ten monolayers of a material. In one particular embodiment, the material includes

titanium-arsenic, strontium-oxygen-arsenic, or other similar materials as previously described with respect to FIGS. 1-5.

5 A monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132 is then epitaxially grown overlying the monocrystalline portion of accommodating buffer layer 124 as shown in FIG. 28. The portion of layer 132 that is grown over portions of layer 124 that are not monocrystalline may be polycrystalline or amorphous. The compound semiconductor layer can be formed by a number of methods and typically includes a material such as gallium arsenide, aluminum gallium arsenide, indium phosphide, or other compound semiconductor materials as previously mentioned. The thickness of the layer is in a range of approximately 1-5,000 nm, and more preferably 100-2000 nm. Furthermore, additional monocrystalline layers may be formed above layer 132, as discussed in more detail below in connection with FIGS. 31-32.

15 In this particular embodiment, each of the elements within the template layer are also present in the accommodating buffer layer 124, the monocrystalline compound semiconductor material 132, or both. Therefore, the delineation between the template layer 125 and its two immediately adjacent layers disappears during processing. Therefore, when a transmission electron microscopy (TEM) photograph is taken, an interface between the accommodating buffer layer 124 and the monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132 is seen.

20 After at least a portion of layer 132 is formed in region 1022, layers 122 and 124 may be subject to an annealing process as described above in connection with FIG. 3 to form a single amorphous accommodating layer. If only a portion of layer 132 is formed prior to the anneal process, the remaining portion may be deposited onto structure 103 prior to further processing.

At this point in time, sections of the compound semiconductor layer 132 and the accommodating buffer layer 124 (or of the amorphous accommodating layer if the

annealing process described above has been carried out) are removed from portions overlying the bipolar portion 1024 and the MOS portion 1026 as shown in FIG. 29. After the section of the compound semiconductor layer and the accommodating buffer layer 124 are removed, an insulating layer 142 is formed over protective layer 1122.

5 The insulating layer 142 can include a number of materials such as oxides, nitrides, oxynitrides, low-k dielectrics, or the like. As used herein, low-k is a material having a dielectric constant no higher than approximately 3.5. After the insulating layer 142 has been deposited, it is then polished or etched to remove portions of the insulating layer 142 that overlie monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132.

10 A transistor 144 is then formed within the monocrystalline compound semiconductor portion 1022. A gate electrode 148 is then formed on the monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132. Doped regions 146 are then formed within the monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132. In this embodiment, the transistor 144 is a metal-semiconductor field-effect transistor
15 (MESFET). If the MESFET is an n-type MESFET, the doped regions 146 and at least a portion of monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132 are also n-type doped. If a p-type MESFET were to be formed, then the doped regions 146 and at least a portion of monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132 would have just the opposite doping type. The heavier doped (N^+) regions 146 allow ohmic contacts to be
20 made to the monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer 132. At this point in time, the active devices within the integrated circuit have been formed. Although not illustrated in the drawing figures, additional processing steps such as formation of well regions, threshold adjusting implants, channel punchthrough prevention implants, field punchthrough prevention implants, and the like may be performed in accordance with
25 the present invention. This particular embodiment includes an n-type MESFET, a vertical NPN bipolar transistor, and a planar n-channel MOS transistor. Many other types of transistors, including P-channel MOS transistors, p-type vertical bipolar transistors, p-type MESFETs, and combinations of vertical and planar transistors, can

be used. Also, other electrical components, such as resistors, capacitors, diodes, and the like, may be formed in one or more of the portions 1022, 1024, and 1026.

Processing continues to form a substantially completed integrated circuit 103 as illustrated in FIG. 30. An insulating layer 152 is formed over the substrate 110. The insulating layer 152 may include an etch-stop or polish-stop region that is not illustrated in FIG. 30. A second insulating layer 154 is then formed over the first insulating layer 152. Portions of layers 154, 152, 142, 124, and 1122 are removed to define contact openings where the devices are to be interconnected. Interconnect trenches are formed within insulating layer 154 to provide the lateral connections between the contacts. As illustrated in FIG. 30, interconnect 1562 connects a source or drain region of the n-type MESFET within portion 1022 to the deep collector region 1108 of the NPN transistor within the bipolar portion 1024. The emitter region 1120 of the NPN transistor is connected to one of the doped regions 1116 of the n-channel MOS transistor within the MOS portion 1026. The other doped region 1116 is electrically connected to other portions of the integrated circuit that are not shown. Similar electrical connections are also formed to couple regions 1118 and 1112 to other regions of the integrated circuit.

A passivation layer 156 is formed over the interconnects 1562, 1564, and 1566 and insulating layer 154. Other electrical connections are made to the transistors as illustrated as well as to other electrical or electronic components within the integrated circuit 103 but are not illustrated in the FIGS. Further, additional insulating layers and interconnects may be formed as necessary to form the proper interconnections between the various components within the integrated circuit 103.

As can be seen from the previous embodiment, active devices for both compound semiconductor and Group IV semiconductor materials can be integrated into a single integrated circuit. Because there is some difficulty in incorporating both bipolar transistors and MOS transistors within a same integrated circuit, it may be

possible to move some of the components within bipolar portion 1024 into the compound semiconductor portion 1022 or the MOS portion 1026. Therefore, the requirement of special fabricating steps solely used for making a bipolar transistor can be eliminated. Therefore, there would only be a compound semiconductor portion and a MOS portion to the integrated circuit.

In still another embodiment, an integrated circuit can be formed such that it includes an optical laser in a compound semiconductor portion and an optical interconnect (waveguide) to a MOS transistor within a Group IV semiconductor region of the same integrated circuit. FIGs. 31-37 include illustrations of one embodiment.

FIG. 31 includes an illustration of a cross-section view of a portion of an integrated circuit 160 that includes a monocrystalline silicon wafer 161. An amorphous intermediate layer 162 and an accommodating buffer layer 164, similar to those previously described, have been formed over wafer 161. Layers 162 and 164 may be subject to an annealing process as described above in connection with FIG. 3 to form a single amorphous accommodating layer. In this specific embodiment, the layers needed to form the optical laser will be formed first, followed by the layers needed for the MOS transistor. In FIG. 31, the lower mirror layer 166 includes alternating layers of compound semiconductor materials. For example, the first, third, and fifth films within the optical laser may include a material such as gallium arsenide, and the second, fourth, and sixth films within the lower mirror layer 166 may include aluminum gallium arsenide or vice versa. Layer 168 includes the active region that will be used for photon generation. Upper mirror layer 170 is formed in a similar manner to the lower mirror layer 166 and includes alternating films of compound semiconductor materials. In one particular embodiment, the upper mirror layer 170 may be p-type doped compound semiconductor materials, and the lower mirror layer 166 may be n-type doped compound semiconductor materials.

Another accommodating buffer layer 172, similar to the accommodating buffer layer 164, is formed over the upper mirror layer 170. In an alternative embodiment, the

accommodating buffer layers 164 and 172 may include different materials. However, their function is essentially the same in that each is used for making a transition between a compound semiconductor layer and a monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer. Layer 172 may be subject to an annealing process as described
5 above in connection with FIG. 3 to form an amorphous accommodating layer. A monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer 174 is formed over the accommodating buffer layer 172. In one particular embodiment, the monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer 174 includes germanium, silicon germanium, silicon germanium carbide, or the like.

10 In FIG. 32, the MOS portion is processed to form electrical components within this upper monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer 174. As illustrated in FIG. 32, a field isolation region 171 is formed from a portion of layer 174. A gate dielectric layer 173 is formed over the layer 174, and a gate electrode 175 is formed over the gate dielectric layer 173. Doped regions 177 are source, drain, or source/drain regions for
15 the transistor 181, as shown. Sidewall spacers 179 are formed adjacent to the vertical sides of the gate electrode 175. Other components can be made within at least a part of layer 174. These other components include other transistors (n-channel or p-channel), capacitors, transistors, diodes, and the like.

A monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer is epitaxially grown over one
20 of the doped regions 177. An upper portion 184 is P+ doped, and a lower portion 182 remains substantially intrinsic (undoped) as illustrated in FIG. 32. The layer can be formed using a selective epitaxial process. In one embodiment, an insulating layer (not shown) is formed over the transistor 181 and the field isolation region 171. The insulating layer is patterned to define an opening that exposes one of the doped regions
25 177. At least initially, the selective epitaxial layer is formed without dopants. The entire selective epitaxial layer may be intrinsic, or a p-type dopant can be added near the end of the formation of the selective epitaxial layer. If the selective epitaxial layer is intrinsic, as formed, a doping step may be formed by implantation or by furnace doping.

Regardless how the P+ upper portion 184 is formed, the insulating layer is then removed to form the resulting structure shown in FIG. 32.

The next set of steps is performed to define the optical laser 180 as illustrated in FIG. 33. The field isolation region 171 and the accommodating buffer layer 172 are

5 removed over the compound semiconductor portion of the integrated circuit.

Additional steps are performed to define the upper mirror layer 170 and active layer 168 of the optical laser 180. The sides of the upper mirror layer 170 and active layer 168 are substantially coterminous.

Contacts 186 and 188 are formed for making electrical contact to the upper
10 mirror layer 170 and the lower mirror layer 166, respectively, as shown in FIG. 33. Contact 186 has an annular shape to allow light (photons) to pass out of the upper mirror layer 170 into a subsequently formed optical waveguide.

An insulating layer 190 is then formed and patterned to define optical openings extending to the contact layer 186 and one of the doped regions 177 as shown in FIG.
15 34. The insulating material can be any number of different materials, including an oxide, nitride, oxynitride, low-k dielectric, or any combination thereof. After defining the openings 192, a higher refractive index material 202 is then formed within the openings to fill them and to deposit the layer over the insulating layer 190 as illustrated in FIG. 35. With respect to the higher refractive index material 202, "higher" is in
20 relation to the material of the insulating layer 190 (i.e., material 202 has a higher refractive index compared to the insulating layer 190). Optionally, a relatively thin lower refractive index film (not shown) could be formed before forming the higher refractive index material 202. A hard mask layer 204 is then formed over the high refractive index layer 202. Portions of the hard mask layer 204, and high refractive
25 index layer 202 are removed from portions overlying the opening and to areas closer to the sides of FIG. 35.

The balance of the formation of the optical waveguide, which is an optical interconnect, is completed as illustrated in FIG. 36. A deposition procedure (possibly a

dep-etch process) is performed to effectively create sidewalls sections 212. In this embodiment, the sidewall sections 212 are made of the same material as material 202. The hard mask layer 204 is then removed, and a low refractive index layer 214 (low relative to material 202 and layer 212) is formed over the higher refractive index material 212 and 202 and exposed portions of the insulating layer 190. The dash lines in FIG. 36 illustrate the border between the high refractive index materials 202 and 212. This designation is used to identify that both are made of the same material but are formed at different times.

Processing is continued to form a substantially completed integrated circuit as illustrated in FIG. 37. A passivation layer 220 is then formed over the optical laser 180 and MOSFET transistor 181. Although not shown, other electrical or optical connections are made to the components within the integrated circuit but are not illustrated in FIG. 37. These interconnects can include other optical waveguides or may include metallic interconnects.

In other embodiments, other types of lasers can be formed. For example, another type of laser can emit light (photons) horizontally instead of vertically. If light is emitted horizontally, the MOSFET transistor could be formed within the substrate 161, and the optical waveguide would be reconfigured, so that the laser is properly coupled (optically connected) to the transistor. In one specific embodiment, the optical waveguide can include at least a portion of the accommodating buffer layer.

In another embodiment, the MOSFET device is located directly beneath the laser, separated by an accommodating buffer layer, such that the transverse evanescent modes of the laser extend down into the gate region of the MOSFET, generating a current proportional to the output power of the laser. In this way, the MOSFET could form part of a feedback monitoring and control circuit for the laser. Other configurations are possible.

Clearly, these embodiments of integrated circuits having compound semiconductor portions and Group IV semiconductor portions, are meant to illustrate

what can be done and are not intended to be exhaustive of all possibilities or to limit what can be done. There is a multiplicity of other possible combinations and embodiments. For example, the compound semiconductor portion may include light emitting diodes, photodetectors, diodes, or the like, and the Group IV semiconductor can include digital logic, memory arrays, and most structures that can be formed in conventional MOS integrated circuits. By using what is shown and described herein, it is now simpler to integrate devices that work better in compound semiconductor materials with other components that work better in Group IV semiconductor materials. This allows a device to be shrunk, the manufacturing costs to decrease, and yield and reliability to increase.

Although not illustrated, a monocrystalline Group IV wafer can be used in forming only compound semiconductor electrical components over the wafer. In this manner, the wafer is essentially a "handle" wafer used during the fabrication of the compound semiconductor electrical components within a monocrystalline compound semiconductor layer overlying the wafer. Therefore, electrical components can be formed within III-V or II-VI semiconductor materials over a wafer of at least approximately 200 millimeters in diameter and possibly at least approximately 300 millimeters.

By the use of this type of substrate, a relatively inexpensive "handle" wafer overcomes the fragile nature of the compound semiconductor wafers by placing them over a relatively more durable and easy to fabricate base material. Therefore, an integrated circuit can be formed such that all electrical components, and particularly all active electronic devices, can be formed within the compound semiconductor material even though the substrate itself may include a Group IV semiconductor material.

Fabrication costs for compound semiconductor devices should decrease because larger substrates can be processed more economically and more readily, compared to the relatively smaller and more fragile, conventional compound semiconductor wafers.

A composite integrated circuit may include components that provide electrical isolation when electrical signals are applied to the composite integrated circuit. The composite integrated circuit may include a pair of optical components, such as an optical source component and an optical detector component. An optical source component may be a light generating semiconductor device, such as an optical laser (e.g., the optical laser illustrated in FIG. 33), a photo emitter, a diode, etc. An optical detector component may be a light-sensitive semiconductor junction device, such as a photodetector, a photodiode, a bipolar junction, a transistor, etc.

A composite integrated circuit may include processing circuitry that is formed at least partly in the Group IV semiconductor portion of the composite integrated circuit. The processing circuitry is configured to communicate with circuitry external to the composite integrated circuit. The processing circuitry may be electronic circuitry, such as a microprocessor, RAM, logic device, decoder, etc.

For the processing circuitry to communicate with external electronic circuitry, the composite integrated circuit may be provided with electrical signal connections with the external electronic circuitry. The composite integrated circuit may have internal optical communications connections for connecting the processing circuitry in the composite integrated circuit to the electrical connections with the external circuitry. Optical components in the composite integrated circuit may provide the optical communications connections which may electrically isolate the electrical signals in the communications connections from the processing circuitry. Together, the electrical and optical communications connections may be for communicating information, such as data, control, timing, etc.

A pair of optical components (an optical source component and an optical detector component) in the composite integrated circuit may be configured to pass information. Information that is received or transmitted between the optical pair may be from or for the electrical communications connection between the external circuitry and the composite integrated circuit. The optical components and the electrical

communications connection may form a communications connection between the processing circuitry and the external circuitry while providing electrical isolation for the processing circuitry. If desired, a plurality of optical component pairs may be included in the composite integrated circuit for providing a plurality of communications
5 connections and for providing isolation. For example, a composite integrated circuit receiving a plurality of data bits may include a pair of optical components for communication of each data bit.

In operation, for example, an optical source component in a pair of components may be configured to generate light (e.g., photons) based on receiving electrical signals
10 from an electrical signal connection with the external circuitry. An optical detector component in the pair of components may be optically connected to the source component to generate electrical signals based on detecting light generated by the optical source component. Information that is communicated between the source and detector components may be digital or analog.

If desired the reverse of this configuration may be used. An optical source component that is responsive to the on-board processing circuitry may be coupled to an optical detector component to have the optical source component generate an electrical signal for use in communications with external circuitry. A plurality of such optical component pair structures may be used for providing two-way connections. In some
15 applications where synchronization is desired, a first pair of optical components may be coupled to provide data communications and a second pair may be coupled for communicating synchronization information.
20

For clarity and brevity, optical detector components that are discussed below are discussed primarily in the context of optical detector components that have been formed
25 in a compound semiconductor portion of a composite integrated circuit. In application, the optical detector component may be formed in many suitable ways (e.g., formed from silicon, etc.).

A composite integrated circuit will typically have an electric connection for a power supply and a ground connection. The power and ground connections are in addition to the communications connections that are discussed above. Processing circuitry in a composite integrated circuit may include electrically isolated communications connections and include electrical connections for power and ground. In most known applications, power supply and ground connections are usually well-protected by circuitry to prevent harmful external signals from reaching the composite integrated circuit. A communications ground may be isolated from the ground signal in communications connections that use a ground communications signal.

FIG. 38 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the present invention of FIGS. 1-3 further comprising an optical processing layer 29 overlying and optically connected to the monocrystalline material layer 26 (with the underlying layers not shown). The optical processing layer can further comprise a plurality of optical processing sub-layers 31, with the various optical processing sub-layers 31 providing different optical processing functions as desired for various applications. The monocrystalline material layer 26 can be any of the materials described for FIGS. 1-3 above.

The optical processing layer 29 can be formed of passive, active, or semi-active components as desired. The optical processing layer 29 processes the photons produced by a photon generation device, such as a laser for example, in the monocrystalline material layer 26 before the photons are transmitted from the semiconductor structure or pass to another portion of the semiconductor structure. This can be accomplished by passive, semi-active or active components. Passive components have only a single operating state and do not change in response to a control signal. Passive components can include components such as micro-Fresnel lenses, hologram lenses, grating lenses, filters, diffusion layers, polarizers, collimators, and zone plates in combination with objective lenses. Active components have at least a first and second operating state and change state in response to an active layer control signal from an active layer controller (not shown). Alternatively, the active components can be continuously variable and

have an analog active layer control signal. The active layer control signal is typically an electrical signal, but can be an optical signal for particular applications. Active components can include components such as electro-optic elements, electronically switchable Bragg gratings (ESBGs), switchable holograms, switchable diffraction gratings, switchable collimators, application specific optical elements (ASOE), switchable refractive elements, and liquid crystal arrays. Semi-active components interact with the photons from the monocrystalline material layer 26, but do not change in response to a control signal. Semi-active components can include components such as photo luminescent layers, which include phosphors or other materials to produce light in response to the photons. The optical processing layer 29 can also include feedback sensors measuring information such as light output color or direction to allow correction of the active layer control signal.

Layers of different types, such as active and passive layers, can be stacked as optical processing sub-layers 31 to produce numerous effects. For example, different switchable holograms can be stacked so that the light is directed one way when a first hologram is on and the second hologram is off, and a different way when the first hologram is off and the second hologram is on. Passive filtering layers can further shift the light from the first and second holograms. The layers can also be tuned to the particular lasers used. For example, if red, green, and blue lasers are used, a stack of red, green, and blue switchable diffraction gratings can be formed so that a particular color of light can be transmitted at a particular time. This would provide a color display that could be used with television monitors, computer displays, and G3 cellular devices. Numerous combinations of elements and effects are possible to achieve desired results.

As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, there are numerous applications for a photon source with passive, active, or semi-active optical processing layers. The descriptions of uses presented below are exemplary only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

In one embodiment, it is possible to control light direction and focus with switchable components. Diffraction gratings and switchable holograms can be provided in layers to focus and direct light in predetermined directions, focusing and diverting the light as desired. Liquid crystal arrays can be adjusted by magnetic control of the crystal patterns to focus and direct the light in directions required by the particular situation, rather than being limited to predetermined patterns. The light can be controlled further with the addition of a passive diffusion layer to scatter the light.

Another embodiment controlling light direction could be an adjustable headlight for an automobile, the headlight having a high beam state and a low beam state. For the high beam state, the optical processing layer can collimate the beam produced by a plurality of lasers, or other intense light generating device, in the monocrystalline material layer providing a high efficiency light source. Switchable diffraction gratings having a predetermined pattern can be switched in response to an active layer control signal to change to the low beam state. The switchable diffraction gratings can be selected to direct the headlight beams down and to diffuse the light.

In another embodiment, an optical processing layer comprising one or more electro-optic elements overlying a plurality of lasers in the monocrystalline material layer can be used as a phased array. The plurality of lasers can be synchronized to produce coherent light. The weak coupling of the lasers due to their proximity in the monocrystalline material and proximity of control signals can be used to aid synchronization. The electro-optic elements can be made of electro-optic materials. One example of an electro-optic material is lithium niobate, although other electro-optic materials, such as strontium titanate and indium-tin oxide, are well known to those skilled in the art. The refractive index of an electro-optic material changes in response to an electrical signal. Changing the refractive index in the electro-optic material changes the speed of light in the electro-optic material and delays the light leaving the electro-optic element.

To form the phased array, the plurality of lasers comprises at least a first laser group optically connected to a first electro-optic element, the first electro-optic element responsive to a first control signal, and a second laser group optically connected to a second electro-optic element, the second electro-optic element responsive to a second control signal. More laser groups can be used for particular applications. The first and second laser groups are synchronized. The first and second laser groups can be arranged relative to each other to simplify control or provide precise control, as desired. For example, alternating broad stripes of first and second laser groups with a separate electro-optic element for each stripe would provide simple control, while alternating first and second laser groups at the pixel level with Cartesian addressable control provided through a mesh to small portions of the electro-optic element would provide precise control.

In the initial state, the first and second electro-optic elements have the same refractive index, so that the synchronized laser light from the first and second laser groups remains synchronized as it leaves the optical processing layer. To direct or focus the synchronized laser light, the first and second control signals are adjusted so that the first and second electro-optic elements have different refractive indices. The light from the first and second laser groups will pass through their respective electro-optic elements at different speeds, so the light leaving the optical processing layer will no longer be synchronized, but will be out of phase. Depending on the relative arrangement of the first and second laser groups, the interaction of the out of phase light from the first and second electro-optic elements will be directed toward one direction or focused, as desired. Directing the light in one direction is particularly suited for applications such as automobile headlights having a high beam state and a low beam state. In an alternate embodiment, the second electro-optic element can be omitted so that the light from the first laser group is shifted while the light from the second laser group is not shifted. In yet another embodiment, a plurality of electro-optic elements can be stacked above the monocrystalline material layer with different electro-optic

elements providing different functions, such as one electro-optic element directing the light and another electro-optic element focusing the light.

FIGS. 39-42 include illustrations of cross-sectional views of fabrication of another integrated circuit that includes a semiconductor laser and an optical processing layer. FIG. 39, in which like elements have like reference numbers with FIGS. 31-35, includes an illustration of a cross-section view of a portion of an integrated circuit 160 that includes a monocrystalline silicon wafer 161. An amorphous intermediate layer 162 and an accommodating buffer layer 164, similar to those previously described, have been formed over wafer 161. Layers 162 and 164 may be subject to an annealing process as described above in connection with FIG. 3 to form a single amorphous accommodating layer. In this specific embodiment, the layers needed to form the optical laser will be formed first, followed by the layers needed for optical processing. In FIG. 39, the lower mirror layer 166 includes alternating layers of compound semiconductor materials. For example, the first, third, and fifth films within the optical laser may include a material such as gallium arsenide, and the second, fourth, and sixth films within the lower mirror layer 166 may include aluminum gallium arsenide or vice versa. Layer 168 includes the active region that will be used for photon generation. Upper mirror layer 170 is formed in a similar manner to the lower mirror layer 166 and includes alternating films of compound semiconductor materials. In one particular embodiment, the upper mirror layer 170 may be p-type doped compound semiconductor materials, and the lower mirror layer 166 may be n-type doped compound semiconductor materials.

Another accommodating buffer layer 172, similar to the accommodating buffer layer 164, is formed over the upper mirror layer 170. In an alternative embodiment, the accommodating buffer layers 164 and 172 may include different materials. However, their function is essentially the same in that each is used for making a transition between a compound semiconductor layer and a monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer. Layer 172 may be subject to an annealing process as described

above in connection with FIG. 3 to form an amorphous accommodating layer. A monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer 174 is formed over the accommodating buffer layer 172. In one particular embodiment, the monocrystalline Group IV semiconductor layer 174 includes germanium, silicon germanium, silicon germanium carbide, or the like.

The next set of steps is performed to define the optical laser 180 as illustrated in FIG. 40. The semiconductor layer 174 and accommodating buffer layer 172 are removed over the compound semiconductor portion of the integrated circuit. Additional steps are performed to define the upper mirror layer 170 and active layer 168 of the optical laser 180. The sides of the upper mirror layer 170 and active layer 168 are substantially coterminous.

Contacts 186 and 188 are formed for making electrical contact to the upper mirror layer 170 and the lower mirror layer 166, respectively, as shown in FIG. 40. Contact 186 has an annular shape to allow light (photons) to pass out of the upper mirror layer 170 into a subsequently formed optical processing layer.

An insulating layer 190 is then formed and patterned to define an optical opening 192 extending to the laser 180, as shown in FIG. 41. The insulating material can be any number of different materials, including an oxide, nitride, oxynitride, low-k dielectric, organic polymer (for example, polyimide) or any combination thereof. After defining the opening 192, a higher refractive index material 202 is then formed within the opening to fill it to provide a uniform surface for depositing a further layer over the insulating layer 190 as illustrated in FIG. 42. With respect to the higher refractive index material 202, "higher" is in relation to the material of the insulating layer 190 (i.e., material 202 has a higher refractive index compared to the insulating layer 190). Optionally, a relatively thin lower refractive index film (not shown) could be formed before forming the higher refractive index material 202.

An active optical processing layer 206 is formed above and optically connected to the higher refractive index material 202, and a passive optical processing layer 208 formed above and optically connected to the active optical processing layer 206.

In one embodiment, the active optical processing layer 206 can be an application specific optical element (ASOE). A transparent first indium-tin oxide layer (ITO) can be applied to the higher refractive index material 202 and the insulating layer 190, followed by a layer of polymer-dispersed liquid crystal, a second ITO layer, and a glass sealing layer. The polymer-dispersed liquid crystal can be programmed as a color filtering or light deflecting hologram by exposing the polymer to external lasers.

Supplying an active layer control signal as a voltage across the first and second ITO layers switches the ASOE between a holographic and a transparent state. In an alternate embodiment, the ASOE can be pre-assembled using two transparent sealing layers and optically affixed to the higher refractive index material 202 and the insulating layer 190. For example, ASOE devices are commercially available from the DigiLens Company of Sunnyvale, California.

Another embodiment uses a metallic grid for fine control, wherein a metal layer is first disposed over the higher refractive index material 202 and the insulating layer 190. A photo resist layer is applied in a fine grid over the metal layer and the bulk of the metal etched away, leaving a fine metal grid for control. For active optical processing layers that use monocrystalline elements, the monocrystalline elements can be epitaxially grown on the higher refractive index material 202 and the insulating layer 190. The monocrystalline elements can also enclose the fine metal grid.

The passive optical processing layer 208 can be applied by film lamination, printing, spin coating, or other methods for optically coupling the passive optical processing layer 208 to the underlying layers. Printing can be performed by photolithography or similar methods. Both film lamination and printing are suitable for applying holograms and diffraction gratings. Spin coating provides a thin film by spinning the semiconductor structure and applying a fluid at the center, so that the fluid

is spread over the face by centripetal acceleration. The fluid dries into the passive optical processing layer. Light-scattering particles can be included in the fluid or scattered over the layer as the layer dries to provide a diffusion layer. For light scattering particles with a magnetic orientation, an external magnetic field can be used to form the light scattering particles into a desired pattern before the passive optical processing layer dries.

In the foregoing specification, the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments. However, one of ordinary skill in the art appreciates that various modifications and changes can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention as set forth in the claims below. Accordingly, the specification and figures are to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of present invention.

Benefits, other advantages, and solutions to problems have been described above with regard to specific embodiments. However, the benefits, advantages, solutions to problems, and any element(s) that may cause any benefit, advantage, or solution to occur or become more pronounced are not to be construed as a critical, required, or essential features or elements of any or all the claims. As used herein, the terms "comprises," "comprising," or any other variation thereof, are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion, such that a process, method, article, or apparatus that comprises a list of elements does not include only those elements but may include other elements not expressly listed or inherent to such process, method, article, or apparatus.